MONTHLY 7

HARRIS COMICS

Queen's Gambit 1 OF 3

Whilce
·ALANGUILAN·
B·∴

VAMPIRELLA

ASCENDING EVIL

COLLECTED EDITION

COLLECTING THE FIRST THREE + SOLD-OUT ISSUES!

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DREW

Harris Comics presents...

opening gambit

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"Humanity fights,
but every vampire that falls
leaves a dozen
victims to take his place."

THE STORY SO FAR...

Born on the hellish realm of Drakulon, Vampirella is the last daughter of Lilith and the first vampire of the new age. Sworn to destroy the evil vampire race that plagues all of humanity, Vampirella is joined by her teenage sidekick Dixie, whom Vampirella saved from a near-certain death at the hands of the shadowy Anti-Vatican. Vampirella and Dixie are allied with an age-old Sisterhood of militant nuns, specially trained and determined to fight the steadily growing threat of vampires. Together, they must find a way to stop the coming vampire apocalypse, or the entire world will perish!

BLACK MAKES THE FIRST MOVE.

BUT WHITE ALWAYS OPENS. NOT CHEATING ALREADY, SURELY!

OH PLEASE, SAVE ME FROM YOUR PIOUS MEWLING. IT'S ONLY A GAME, YOU TEDIOUS, INSUFFERABLE BORE.

AS CANTANKEROUS AS EVER, I SEE.

AND YOU'RE SO PERFECT, I SUPPOSE? WE'RE BOTH EXACTLY AS WE WERE MADE TO BE. GET OVER IT.

I WASN'T COMPLAINING. MERELY MAKING AN OBSERVATION.

AN OBSERVATION? WHY DO YOU MAKE EVERY-THING SOUND LIKE A CONDEMNATION?

I DON'T KNOW. GUILTY CONSCIENCE, PERHAPS?

THE PAWNS.

NEW YORK.

" AND SHE IS...?"

"HER NAME IS PATRICE ESPOSITO. WE'VE CHECKED HER AS THOROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE, PAST AND PRESENT.

"THE MOST UNUSUAL THING ABOUT HER IS THAT THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT HER AT ALL."

"THEN WHY HER?"

" WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES TO GET WIND OF THIS INFORMATION...

"...WORD IS THAT THE ENTIRE VAMPIRE COMMUNITY HAS COMMITTED ITS EVERY RESOURCE TO FINDING THIS WOMAN AND WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET THEIR FILTHY HANDS ON HER."

"BECAUSE, SOMEHOW, IN SOME WAY WE YET TO UNDERSTAND, SHE IS A KEY TO THE COMING APOCALYPSE.

"THAT'S THE PART I DON'T GET.

"ALL THE DIFFERENT FAMILIES AND GANGS CAN USUALLY MANAGE IS AN UNEASY TRUCE AT BEST.

" WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS WOMAN THAT IT'S UNIFIED THEM?"

"THEY'RE VAMPIRES, BABY..."

...BLOOD IS *ALWAYS* THICKER THAN WATER!

UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME STRAYS RUNNING AROUND, DIXIE.

DO YOU WANT TO PUNCTURE THEM OR SHOULD I?

WOULD YOU MIND DOING THE HONORS?

HONEY, IT WOULD BE A GENUINE PLEASURE.

SKREEEEEK!

YOU GET YOURSELVES BACK HERE, HOMEBOYS...

GLOOMF

GLOOMF

SQUAAAWRK!

SQUAAWRK!

DON'T THINK YOU'RE GETTING OFF LIGHTLY, MISTER.

JUST BECAUSE YOU LET ME HITCH A RIDE DOESN'T MEAN I'M LETTING YOU YOU CRAWL BACK TO THAT FIVE-STAR COFFIN YOU PROBABLY RENT UPTOWN.

AREA SECURED?

THE UNDEAD ARE ***DEAD*** AGAIN, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN, VAMPIRELLA, AND EVERYTHING IS JUST PEACHY REGARDING MS. PATRICE ESPOSITO.

SHE'S BREATHING...WHICH MEANS SHE CAN ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.

YOU CAN STILL TALK, CAN'T YOU, LADY?

WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?

HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED? WE'RE THE FEARLESS VAMPIRE HUNTERS.

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BODY THE POLICE FIND IN THE MORNING, COMPLETELY DRAINED OF ALL EIGHT PINTS OF BLOOD.

VAMPIRES AS IN "BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER"?

TRUST US, PATRICE. THOSE THINGS WHICH ATTACKED YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY CREATED BY ILM. YOU'VE BEEN TARGETED, BUT THE SISTERHOOD HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHY YET.

THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING SAFE-HOUSES WE HAVE ON THE EAST COAST. YOU SHOULD BE SAFE HERE UNTIL WE FIND WHAT THEY WANT WITH YOU.

I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY WANT. ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'M GETTING ***OUT*** OF HERE. MY ***MOTHER'S*** GOING TO BE WORRIED ***SICK***.

...WORRIED SPITLESS IS THE WORD. PATRICE WOULD HAVE CALLED IF SHE WAS GOING TO MISS OUR WEEKY LUNCH APPOINTMENT.

THE OIKE GALLERY, NEW YORK CITY!

PERHAPS SHE'S SPENT THE NIGHT WITH A *FRIEND*, MICHELE.

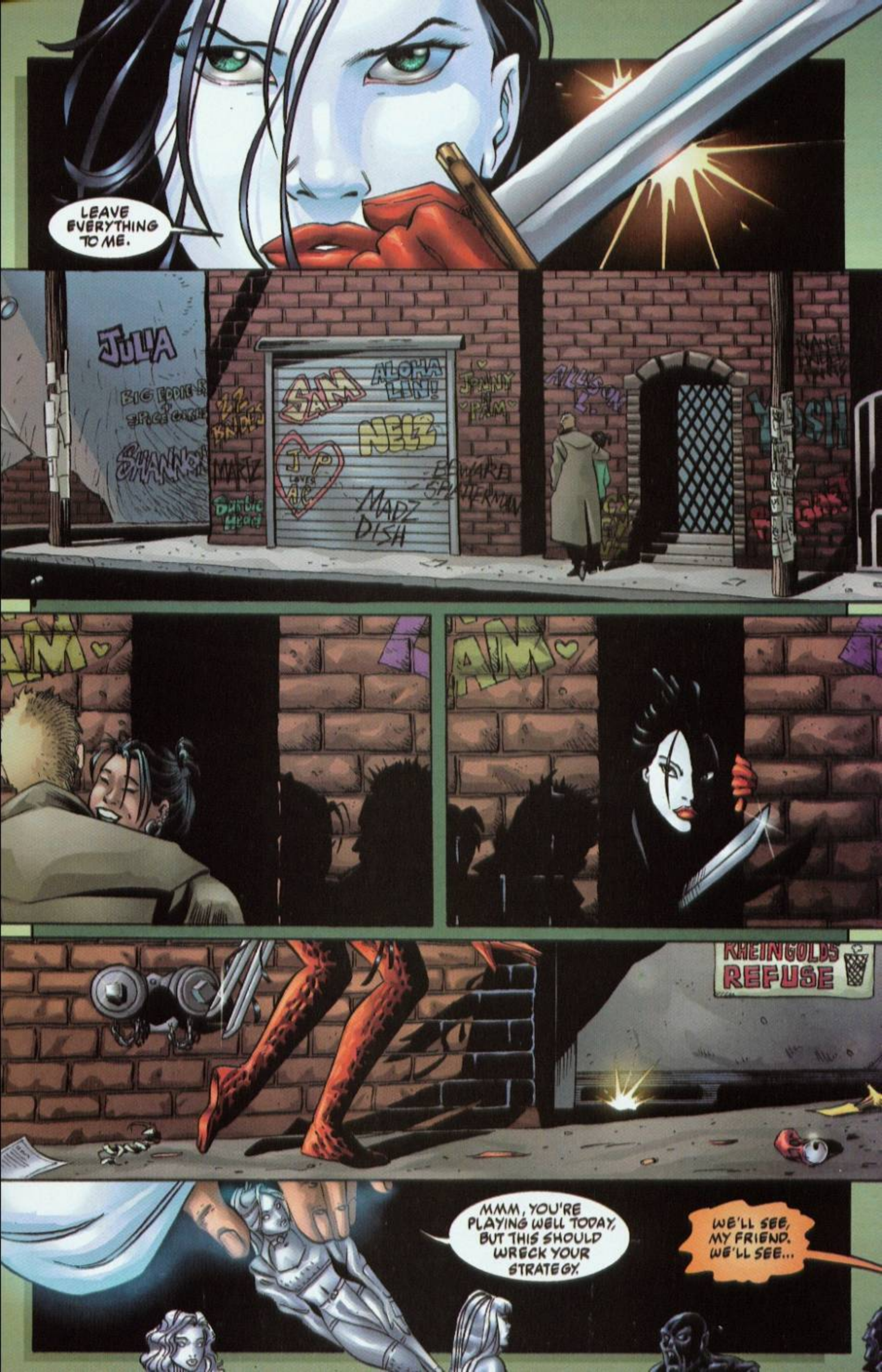
HELL, NO. THE GIRL HASN'T BEEN LAID SINCE REAGAN WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE. SHE'S EITHER IN TRAINING TO BE A NUN OR A LESBIAN, ANA.

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO MY LITTLE GIRL. I'M CERTAIN OF IT.

HER OFFICE SAID SHE LEFT AFTER SEVEN LAST NIGHT. THAT WAS THE LAST TIME ANYONE SAW HER. EVEN THE MAN ACROSS THE STREET WHO WATCHES HER UNDRESS AFTER WORK SAID SHE NEVER CAME HOME, AND *HE* KNOWS HER MOVEMENTS BETTER THAN ANYONE.

YOU ARE IN NO SHAPE TO WORK TODAY, MICHELE. GO HOME. WAIT BY THE PHONE IN CASE SHE CALLS...

...I'LL MAKE SOME INQUIRIES OF MY OWN.


LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.
JULIA
SAM
ALOHA LIN!
NELZ
MADZ DISH
BEWARE SPLATTERMAN
RHEINGOLDS REFUSE
MMM, YOU'RE PLAYING WELL TODAY, BUT THIS SHOULD WRECK YOUR STRATEGY.
WE'LL SEE, MY FRIEND. WE'LL SEE...

VAMPIRES...

IT'S NO USE, VAMPIRELLA. THIS WOMAN DOESN'T KNOW NOSFERATU FROM FREDDY KRUEGER, MUCH LESS WHAT THEY WANT FROM HER...

...I'M STARTING TO THINK SHE'S JUST ANOTHER RANDOM VICTIM.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THE BLACK TESTAMENT DESCRIBES HER RIGHT DOWN TO THE FRECKLE ON HER WRIST AND THE SCENT OF HER PERFUME, DIXIE.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE VISIONS OF *JUDAS ISCARIOT* HERE.

NOT EXACTLY THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY GUY IN THE BIBLE...

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JUDAS IS THE ENEMY'S SECRET DIARY.

ACCORDING TO THIS BOOK, OUR LITTLE INSURANCE CLERK IS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT. IT'S UP TO US TO FIGURE OUT WHY.

THESE VAMPIRES HEADING OUR WAY FROM DRAKULON, ARE THEY ALL REALLY AS, YOU KNOW, HARD TO KILL AS YOU ARE? I MEAN, TRADITIONAL VAMPIRE WEAKNESSES HAVE NEVER REALLY APPLIED TO YOU IN THE PAST.

DO THEY ALL HAVE YOUR IMMUNITY TO BEARDED GUYS ON CROSSES?

I'M AFRAID SO.

I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT ABOUT WHAT THE BLACK POPE SAID BACK IN ROME. HE TALKED ABOUT THE NEW AGE--

-- AND HOW I WAS THE FIRST OF THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE NEW BREED.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND FOR THE FIRST TIME WHAT HE MEANT.

CARE TO SHARE IT WITH A FRIEND?

SUPPOSING THE LAST TWO THOUSAND YEARS, LET'S CALL IT THE *AGE OF PISCES*, CHRISTIAN ICONOGRAPHY WAS YOUR BEST DEFENSE AGAINST VAMPIRES. HOLY WATER, CROSSES...YOU'RE WELL-VERSED IN THE AMMUNITION...

ABSOLUTELY **FLUENT.**

WELL, ***CHRISTIANITY*** ISN'T EXACTLY THE POTENT FORCE IT USED TO BE. BELIEVERS ARE DESERTING THE FLOCK BY THE MILLIONS AND THERE'S ALMOST NO POWER BEHIND WHAT WAS ONCE CONSIDERED ***SACRED.***

THE AGE OF PISCES WILL SOON BE REPLACED BY THE ***AGE OF AQUARIUS,*** MEANING NEW METHODS WILL BE NEEDED TO COMBAT VAMPIRES. WAYS YOU AND I HAVEN'T EVEN CONSIDERED YET.

WHAT'S THE 21ST CENTURY EQUIVALENT OF A CRUCIFIX? COULD COKE BE AS LETHAL TO ME AS HOLY WATER WAS TO THE OLD VAMPIRES? MY REFLECTION DOESN'T APPEAR IN MIRRORS, BUT COULD IT BE CAPTURED ON VIDEOTAPE?

YOU'RE CRAZY...

WE LIVE IN CRAZY TIMES, DIXIE.

WATCH THIS, FOR INSTANCE--

KR

RRSH

STILL NOT GRASPED THE CONCEPT OF DOORS, SHI?

HAND OVER PATRICE ESPOSITO NOW OR FACE *HIS* WRATH!

OH, PLEASE. PUT THAT AWAY.

YOU'RE ONLY EMBARRASSING YOURSELF.

PATRICE IS IN OUR CUSTODY, LADY, AND SHE'S NOT LEAVING HERE WITH A CHICK WHO WEARS WAY TOO MUCH MAKE-UP.

THERE YOU ARE WRONG, ABOMINATION.

KNOWING SHE'S HERE MAKES YOU A SUSPECT, HONEY. MAYBE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT ON THE SAME SIDE, BUT YOU COULD BE WITH *THEM* NOW.

ANY HALF-BLIND FOOL COULD HAVE FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF BLOOD FROM THE STREET TO HERE.

AS FOR MY ALLYING MYSELF WITH VAMPIRE SCUM, I'D *SOONER* BURN IN *HELL* FOR ALL ETERNITY THAN STAND BY YOUR SIDE AGAIN!

REALLY? TELL MOM I WAS ASKING FOR HER!

SLSSSSHHH

AAAAAHHH!

OH, YOU'RE GOOD, BUT I'VE WATCHED *ENTER THE DRAGON* AT LEAST A HUNDRED TIMES SINCE WE LAST FACED OFF.

SHANNGG

AND I HAVE STUDIED VAMPIRES INTENSELY, CREATURE.

KTANG

DID YOU KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT YOUR KIND CAN BE DESTROYED BY SEPARATING THE HEADS FROM YOUR BODIES?

DID YOU REALIZE THE SAME GOES FOR *HUMANS*?!

AND WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS?

A DISTRACTION. WHAT ELSE?

HUMANS? ONLY GOOD FOR ONE THING--

-- CLEANING YOUR INFERNAL ASS AFTER A NICE BIG CRAP!

NOW WHERE'S THAT LITTLE WHORE ESPOSITO?

ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR UNHOLY CLAN?

HONEY, THIS SLEAZE IS NO PAL OF MINE!

FOR GOD'S SAKE...

...SOMEBODY HELP ME HOLD THESE THINGS BACK!

THEY'RE COMING IN FROM EVERYWHERE!

PATRICE IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE SISTERHOOD...

...HANDS OFF!

SHLKK

GHAKK!

HOW COULD THE GOOD LORD ALLOW SUCH A TERRIBLE CREATURE TO EXIST?

"GOOD?" HA HA HA HA HA HA!

YOU'RE TALKING AS IF THAT OLD FART KNEW THE MEANING OF THE WORD.

FWHOOOOSSH

HE DOESN'T GIVE A S#%+ ABOUT YOU OR ANYONE ELSE!

YOU'RE THE *DEVIL* AND THE *DEVIL* LIES AS SURELY AS HE SPEAKS.

I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU, DEMON.

TYPICAL LITTLE CHRISTIAN GIRL.

BELIEVE EVERYTHING THOSE F***S MADE YOU READ IN SUNDAY SCHOOL. OF COURSE THEY TOLD YOU THE LORD'S ASS DOESN'T SMELL BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT HE *TOLD* THEM TO WRITE...

THE TRUTH IS: HE LETS US DO WHATEVER THE F*** WE --

DIE, HELL-SPAWN!

WWAAAHHN!

WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT HUMANS ONLY BEING GOOD FOR ONE THING?

mm?

WHATEVER YOU PIECES OF DOG-S*** CREATE, IT'S NEVER GOING TO MAKE ONE OF US P*** IN OUR SWEATY PANTS. HAND OVER THE F***ING ESPOSITO GIRL OR I START GETTING SERIOUSLY F***ING CREATIVE HERE.

IT'S UNBEATABLE.

SHI, YOU MAY BE NEW TO THE SUPERNATURAL GAME, BUT YOU GOT ONE THING RIGHT ABOUT THIS GUY FROM THE START.

HE LIES.

YOU MEAN GOD REALLY DOES CARE ABOUT US?

ACTUALLY, HE WAS PROBABLY TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT PART.

I WAS MEANING THE STUFF ABOUT MAN-MADE OBJECTS HAVING NO EFFECT UPON HIM. YOUR SWORDS AREN'T HOLY ITEMS...

SKRUNCH

SKRUNCH

BUT *THIS* IS AS *HOLY* AS IT GETS!

WHAT THE F***?

SHUT YOUR FILTHY MOUTH, YOU *DEGENERATE!*

SPLORCHH!

WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT...?

A DIVERSION, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YOU SAW ALL THOSE VAMPIRES HE BROUGHT WITH HIM WHEN HE FIRST APPEARED?

I'M SORRY. WE COULDN'T STOP THEM. THEY ESCAPED WITH PATRICE.

THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? PERHAPS WE CAN STILL CATCH THEM BEFORE...

IT'S TOO LATE. THEY'VE TAKEN HER WHERE WE CAN'T FOLLOW.

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO.

"WE"? YOU MEAN YOU'D WORK WITH AN ABOMINATION LIKE ME?

THE CROSS DIDN'T HURT YOU. YOU'RE HARDLY WHAT I'D CONSIDERED A VAMPIRE. BESIDES, COMPARED TO WHAT I'VE JUST SEEN, YOU'RE AN ANGEL.

WELL, PARTNER, WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?

BAND AID

WHAT'S THIS? MORE DEMONS?

BAND AID

GET THE REST OF THE SISTERHOOD TOGETHER.

WHOEVER WE'VE GOT LEFT... THIS MIGHT BE OUR LAST STAND..

...THIS MIGHT BE IT.

HARDLY.

LADIES. IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO FIGHT AGAINST ME. I HAVE YOU IN CHECK.

I AM THE WHITE BISHOP.

AND NOW THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING...

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